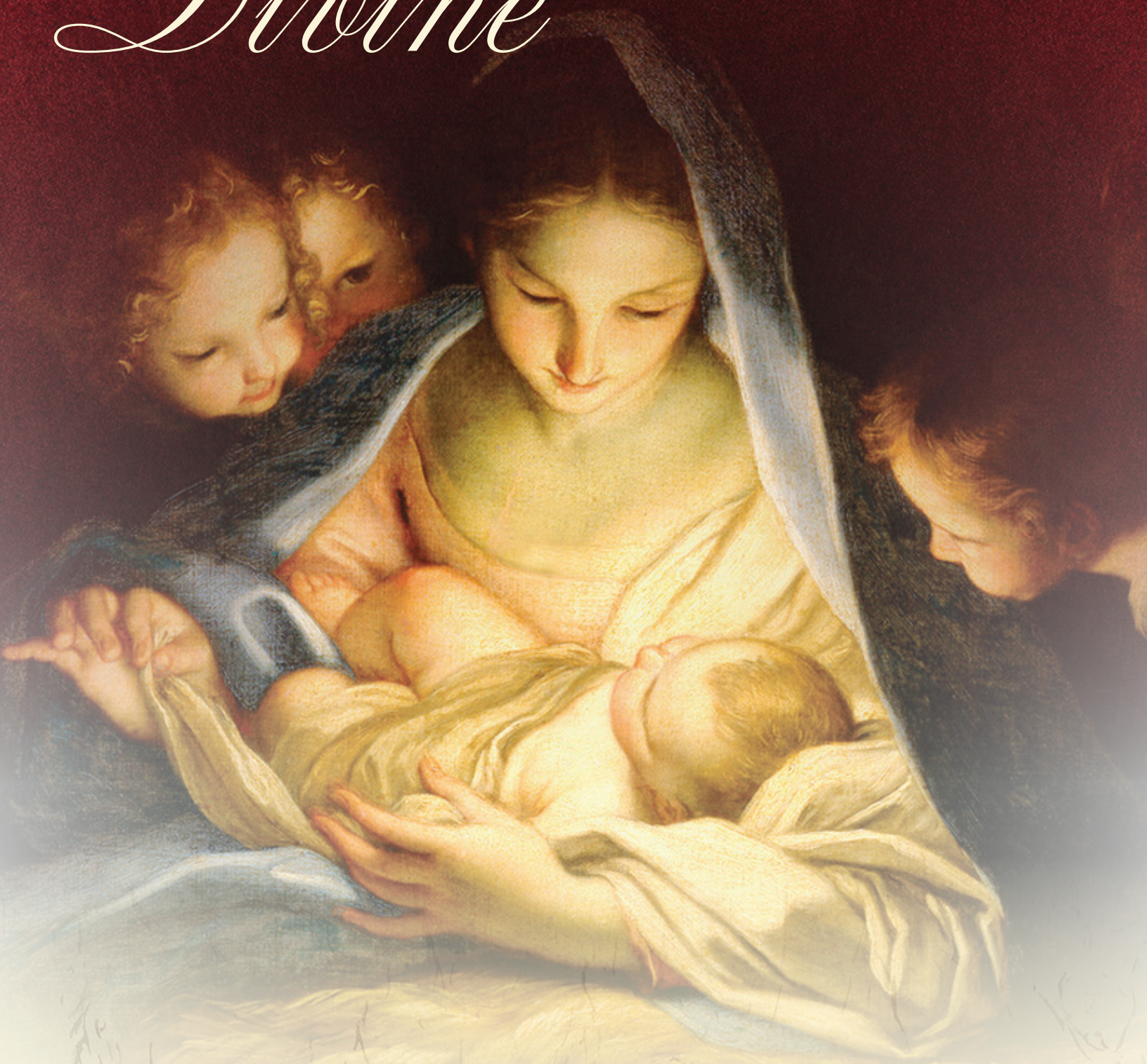


O NIGHT

CHRISTMAS
2023

Divine



CHURCH OF
ST. EDWARD
THE CONFESSOR

785 NEWARK-GRANVILLE ROAD,
GRANVILLE, OHIO 43023
(740)587-3254
WWW.SAINTEDWARDS.ORG



Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 31 – THE HOLY FAMILY

8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of St. Edward Parish

10:45 a.m. Tatla Dager by Chuck & Terri Cera

Mon. January 1, 2024 – SOLEMNITY OF MARY

10:00 a.m. Michael Crecca by Bill & Cindy Kendrick

Tuesday, January 2 – Sts. Basil the Great &

Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors

9:00 a.m. Kiano Panko by Dale & Linda Pankpo

Wednesday, January 3 – Christmas Weekday,

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

9:00 a.m. Karen Petticrew (RIP) by Jon Petticrew

Thursday, January 4 – Christmas Weekday,

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

9:00 a.m. Tom Skufca (RIP Birthday) by Tony & Dottie Skufca

Friday, January 5 – Christmas Weekday,

St. John Neumann, Bishop

9:00 a.m. Charles Giumenti (RIP) by Bill & Peg McFarren

Saturday, January 6 – Christmas Weekday,

St. Andre Bessette, Religious

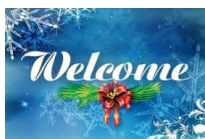
5:00 p.m. Ivan Hall (RIP) by Ruby Hall

Sunday, January 7 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of St. Edward Parish

10:45 a.m. Raymond Russell Thomas, Jr. (RIP)
by Cheryl Boggess

*Fr. Tim: I invite you to pray as I bow toward the congregation:
“Lord, give him the homily You want me to hear. Give me the
ears to hear it, the heart to receive it, and the grace to put it
into practice in my life.”*



*“I rejoiced when they said unto me,
let us go into the house of the Lord.”
Psalm 122:1*

WELCOME, all visitors and parishioners who have come to worship today! To our visitors, you may have come as a stranger to us, yet you are known to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. In His name, we pray you will find peace, hospitality, and friendship with us. Children are always welcome at Mass! We hope you will return regularly to worship at St. Edward Church! If you would like to be a member of St. Edward Parish, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket, or stop by the Church Office, or call us at 740-587-3254. **God bless you!**

I WANT TO JOIN ST. EDWARD PARISH!

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Divine Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits that prowl around the world seeking the ruin of souls.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 31, 2023 – YEAR B

PRELUDE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (#90)

GLORIA: Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

(text: inside front cover or p. 6)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps. 105: The Lord remembers his covenant... (p. 53)

* Depending on the readings, Ps.128 (Blessed are those...) may be used instead.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (p. 54)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF GIFTS: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (#93)

SANCTUS, MEM. ACC. A, AMEN, AGNUS DEI: Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

COMMUNION: The First Noel (#112)

COMMUNION 2 (as needed): TBD

CONCLUDING RITE

SENDING FORTH: Angels We Have Heard on High (#87)

POSTLUDE

CANTORS

5:00 p.m.: Dave Conway

8:15 a.m.: Jim Bidigare

10:45 a.m.: Randy Kerr

TRUMPET

5:00 p.m. and/or 8:15 a.m.: Shelby Heist

10:45 a.m. Adam Spieles

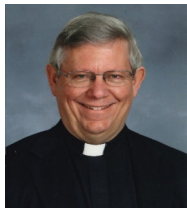
Notes from the Loft

♪ Merry Christmas! *Gloria in excelsis Deo!* As we continue this blessed season, many thanks to all of our music ministers – our Choir, Children's Choir, Bell Choir, Funeral Choir, cantors, organists, and instrumentalists. All of them and their singing, ringing, and playing are a great blessing to our parish. When there is a musician in the family, everybody else must sacrifice and adjust their schedules – not only at Christmas and Easter, but all year around. So, on this Feast of the Holy Family, many thanks to our musicians' families as well! Finally, thank you to everyone who lifts your voices in song from the pews and the sanctuary. May the peace of Christ be with our parish and our world in the year to come.



Paul Radkowski, Music Director
740-587-3254, music@saintedwards.org

A Word from Your Pastor



Dear Parishioners:

The last day of the calendar year is the Feast of the Holy Family, the weekend following Christmas. We gather today to continue our celebration of the Octave of Christmas, which takes place Monday, January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

In my first years as a priest, I was assigned at St. Mary in Lancaster. The parish had a custom of giving a special individual family blessing after each of the Masses of that day. I have carried that tradition with me

to every parish I have served since then. I am happy to bring this custom as a "new tradition" to St. Edward. After each of the Masses of the weekend, instead of processing out, I will be at the front of the altar to bless individual families.

As members of the Church, we are part of the family of God, inviting others to learn about His Love. As individual families, we are the domestic Church, that is, the Church alive in the home. The Holy Family blessing is a reminder to us all that we are meant to welcome Christ into our world and into our homes. When Christ dwells with us, we learn about God's Love for humanity, and we hear the invitation to share that Love with one another and with the world.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph experienced all the joys and sorrows of family life together. How they lived together is a sign to us that we are able, as human beings in relationship, to welcome all that happens in a spirit of Faith and trust in God's Providence. God is with us where we live.

May God bless you and your family. Please receive the blessing offered today and carry it with you out into the world.

All are invited to the 10 a.m. Mass on Monday, January 1, even though it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. It is still a Holy Day and the Octave of Christmas. We acknowledge Mary as Mother of God, recalling that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the world. We also observe World Day of Peace, seeking an end to all wars and cooperation among the nations. Let us pray that we may grow in Faith and in our trust that God will lead us to the fullness of Peace.



Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes, Pastor



Altar Serving is a great family ministry. It's a great way for a family to serve the parish for the New Year and beyond. We are looking for a few young women and men and their families to begin the process of serving the Lord at the altar during Mass. The only prerequisite for the job is to have made your First Communion, believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the

Eucharist and a willingness to fulfill your commitment to this ministry by being on time as scheduled. **PLEASE CONTACT DEACON JOHN FOR TRAINING at barfamilybour@yahoo.com. One parent must attend the session with their student.**



HERE AM I, LORD; I COME TO DO YOUR WILL

Ps 40: Sa and Ta

Rectory Update



After New Year's, the finishing of the floors will be completed by Vogelmeier Floors. Painting and appliance installation, furniture and rugs will follow.

The project is about two weeks behind schedule due to delays with plumbing and the flooring refurbishing. Hopefully, a late January to early February move-in will occur.

Outdoor work will pick back up in the spring.

Donations for the repair of the St. Edward's Rectory are gratefully accepted.

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR

Bishop Fernandes has requested that parishes offer a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on the First Friday of each month in reparation for sins against human life and dignity, also praying for the building of a civilization of love. Let us please pray together on Friday, January 5 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the chapel behind the sanctuary. Please know that you can come at any time during this hour and stay as long as you can.



For Our Country & World to Return to God

For all War-torn Countries in the World

For Catholics to Return to Church

Bishop Fernandes & All Bishops and Priests

For Young Men to Heed the Call to Become a Priest

For St. Edward's Youth Group to Grow

For Sick & Homebound Parishioners

All Staff, Teachers, Volunteers & Members of St. Edward

Contact Cindy Kendrick at 740-366-2871 for prayer requests

| | Eucharistic Ministers: | Lector: | Altar Servers: |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| January 13 – January 14: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | | | |
| Saturday, 5:00 p.m. | Adrienne Carter Stefanie Manley | Karen Kolbe | Kevin Bollo Arianna Carter |
| Sunday, 8:15 a.m. | Rick Corder Lori Corder | Sheila Heist | Francis Aransky Calvin Harms |
| Sunday, 10:45 a.m. | Lisa Barrett Margo Downing | Roy Brewer | Leah Moberg Peter Moberg |

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

Supporting St. Edward Church

"Each one must do as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7



Because of early submission of bulletins, the offertory will be posted at a later date.

Please consider ONLINE GIVING. Sign up on the St. Edward website homepage at www.saintedwards.org.

January Diocesan Second Collection

SVDP – January 7

Propagation of the Faith – January 21



Contact Maggie Barno to schedule Mass Intentions at maggie@saintedwards.org.

If you desire a specific date/s, please contact Maggie at least six months before the desired date. If the date you request for a Mass Intention is already taken, we will try to schedule your Mass on a date that will suit you. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

To comply with Diocesan Finance Office policies, a \$10.00 stipend is requested when Mass Intentions are scheduled.



Food Pantry needs are grape jelly, Hamburger Helper, tuna, and canned vegetables.

Please put Food Pantry donations in the box in the Gathering Space or the wooden box outside of the Parish Office. Your continuous donations are a blessing to others. Thank you!

This Week at St. Edward

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 – HOLY FAMILY

Mass 8:15 a.m.

Mass 10:45 a.m.

Blessing of Families after each Mass

by Fr. Hayes



MONDAY, JANUARY 1 – SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Mass – 10:00 a.m.

One Mass Only

Office Closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

Adoration – 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Confession – 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Mass – 5:00 p.m.

SVDP Meeting – 10:00 a.m. in the Lounge

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 – EPIPHANY

Welcome Sunday

PSR – 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Second Collection – SVDP



WINTER DONATIONS FOR HOMELESS

St. Edward's Youth Group Ministers to the homeless in Newark each month and is asking the parish to please help us with donations.

Clothing for adult men and women: Coats, sweaters, scarves, gloves, shoes, new underwear and socks.

Travel-size toiletries

Snacks: Granola bars, bottled water, juice boxes, chips, cookies, and other snacks.

Please drop off donations in the box in the Gathering Space.

Thank you!

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Form Us in Love

Triune God,
 you entered humanity,
 were welcomed by humble parents
 and laid in a manger.
 On this feast of your human family,
 bless our families—received and chosen.
 Help us grow in love.
 Foster in us patience and kindness.
 Open our hearts to make room for you
 and guide us on our path to holiness.
 Through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Bless Family Life



Today's readings: Genesis 15:1–6; 21:1–3; or Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 8–9; or Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5; Hebrews 11:8, 11–12, 17–19; or Colossians 3:12–21; Luke 2:22–40. On the Feast of the Holy Family, the Church honors Jesus' earthly family, offering encouragement and a model to all families. By sending Jesus to enter the world through a human family, God takes on all the messiness that comes with family life. God shows us tangibly that God desires to be close to us in our everyday living, in our closest relationships, and in the life in our homes. Families are called the hearth of the domestic church because it is within our families that we are first formed in faith and nurtured in love. In both the trials and joys of family life, we learn how to strive for holiness.

Today marks the exact midpoint in the Christmas season. We continue to recall what befell the holy family as they welcomed the infant Jesus during their stay in overcrowded Bethlehem; they were visited by the most unexpected guests and went to great extremes to protect their newborn child.

The Feast of the Holy Family offers us an opportunity to reflect upon the holiness in our primary relationships. Today's second reading from the Letter to the Colossians gives us a blueprint for household living. Read it with loved ones and together prayerfully discern some resolutions for the new year.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, January 1

Mary, Holy Mother of God

According to the Scriptures, Mary reflects in her heart on all the amazing events surrounding the birth of her child. As we move from one calendar year to the next, we are invited to reflect with gratitude on the gifts given to us as well as look forward to the new year with hope, faith, and trust in the abiding presence of Emmanuel. This time of the year, when traditionally New Year's resolutions are made, is also the perfect time to make spiritual promises. Ponder how you hope to grow in your relationship with the living Christ in the coming year. *Today's readings: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21.*

Tuesday, January 2

Sts. Basil and Gregory

St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen were fourth-century contemporaries, both born to parents who were named saints and both blessed with siblings who became saints. Through their writings, they made important contributions to how the Church understands the mystery of the Trinity. Their articulation of Jesus as fully human and fully divine shaped the language of the Nicene Creed we profess every Sunday at Mass. *Today's readings: 1 John 2:22-28; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 1:19-28.*

Wednesday, January 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

The Church reserves today as an optional memorial dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus. The name Jesus, (in Hebrew, *Yeshua*) means "Savior." St. Paul urges all Christians to keep holy the name of Jesus, "*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth*" (Philippians 2:10). *Today's optional memorial readings: Philippians 2:1-11; Psalm 8:4-9; Luke 2:21-22.*

Thursday, January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Born in 1774, Elizabeth Ann (Bayley) Seton was by the age of twenty-nine a widowed mother of five children. In her grief she discovered the Catholic faith and received the call to form a new religious order. In starting her first Catholic school for poor girls, Elizabeth founded the Catholic parochial school system that still thrives today. Elizabeth was canonized in 1975 as the first person born in the United States to be named a saint. Today the Sisters of Charity serve in communities around the world following the inspiration of their founder, Mother Seton. *Today's readings: 1 John 3:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 7-8, 9; John 1:35-42.*

Friday, January 5

St. John Neumann

Born in 1811, John Neumann emigrated from Bohemia to New York to care for the spiritual needs of European immigrants. As a young priest he entered the Redemptorists and was subsequently named the bishop of Philadelphia. In just seven years, he built eighty-nine Catholic churches, hospitals, orphanages, and almost one hundred schools. He organized the first diocesan Catholic school system in the United States and is remembered to this day as the patron of sick children and immigrants. *Today's readings: 1 John 3:11-21; Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; John 1:43-51.*

Saturday, January 6

The Twelfth Day of Christmas

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil of Christmas and concludes on Monday, January 8, with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Throughout the season we celebrate the birth of Christ into our hearts, our lives and our world, and commemorate that Jesus comes to save us and lead us to eternal light. Listen to the Christmas carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas," originally written to convey the essential elements of the Christian faith during centuries of religious persecution. *Today's readings: 1 John 5:5-13; Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mark 1:7-11.*



Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus.

"In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart. And that you may obtain the assistance of her prayer, neglect not to walk in her footsteps. With her for guide, you shall never go astray; while invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall; under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favor, you shall reach the goal." +SAINT BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

Monday, January 1 ~ Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:16-21 The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Meditation: In fulfillment of this precept, Mary's newborn child is given the name *Jesus* on the eighth day according to the Jewish custom. Joseph and Mary gave the name *Jesus* because that is the name given by God's messenger before *Jesus* was conceived in Mary's womb. This name signifies *Jesus'* identity and his mission. The literal Hebrew means *the Lord saves*. Since God alone can forgive sins, it is God who, in *Jesus* his eternal Son made man, will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). In the birth and naming of this child we see the wondrous design and plan of God in giving us a Savior who would bring us grace, mercy, and freedom from the power of sin and the fear of death. The name *Jesus* signifies that the very name of God is present in the person of his Son who became man for our salvation. Peter the Apostle exclaimed that there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved (Acts 2:12). In the name of *Jesus* demons flee, cripples walk, the blind see, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. At the name of *Jesus* every knee shall bow; His name is exalted far above every other name. The name *Jesus* is at the heart of all Christian prayer. It is through *Jesus*, with *Jesus* and in *Jesus* that we pray to God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord *Jesus Christ*, your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Mary was “full of grace” not only for being chosen to be God’s mother but in her total openness to be filled with that love of God. We too are constantly “graced” and we too can be full of grace not because we were baptized into the Catholic community, but by our own total, active identification with the way of *Jesus* by our opening up to the call of God as it unfolds in the unique circumstances of our own lives. We do this through total and unconditional service of those around us. It is a formidable challenge at times, but it also brings countless joys. To be a true Christian – a true disciple and follower of Christ is demanding but not insurmountable; it is not for the hypocrite or faint of heart. To be a true Christian is to first go beyond mere lip service calling *Jesus* “Lord, Lord” but not living according to Christ’s way – it is for those who truly believe in *Jesus Christ* as their Lord, Savior and Redeemer; those who see *Jesus Christ* as the Good Shepherd who allow them to be lovingly led by Christ; those who want to be “doers of the Word and not hearers only” (James 1:22). Prove to Christ, to the world, and to yourself that you are Christian.

Tuesday, January 2 ~ Season of Christmas

Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Holy Gospel: John 1:19-28 This is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Meditation: John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament Prophets who points the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus and who announces his mission to the people: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! John saw from a distance what the Messiah came to accomplish – our redemption from slavery to sin and our adoption as sons and daughters of God, our heavenly Father.

Prayer: O God, who were pleased to give light to your Church by the example and teaching of the Bishops, Saints Basil and Gregory, grant, we pray, that in humility we may learn your truth and practice it faithfully in charity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: John was the greatest of the prophets, yet he lived as a humble and faithful servant of God. He pointed others to Jesus, Messiah and Savior of the world. The Catholic Church from the earliest of times has given John many titles which signify his mission: *Witness of the Lord, Trumpet of Heaven, Herald of Christ, Voice of the Word, Precursor of Truth, Friend of the Bridegroom, Crown of the Prophets, Forerunner of the Redeemer, Preparer of Salvation, Light of the Martyrs, and Servant of the Word*. By your life, by your faith, do you point others to Christ by your witness and example as John the Baptist did?

Wednesday, January 3 ~ Season of Christmas

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Holy Gospel: John 1:29-34 John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

Meditation: John calls Jesus the *Lamb of God* and thus signifies Jesus' mission as the One who redeems us from our sins. The blood of the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12) delivered the Israelites in Egypt from death. The blood of Jesus, the true Passover Lamb who offered his life up for us on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 Corinthians 5:7), delivers us from everlasting death and destruction. It is significant that John was the son of a priest, Zachariah, who participated in the daily sacrifice of a lamb in the temple for the sins of the people (Exodus 29). In Jesus he saw the true and only sacrifice which delivers us from sin.

Prayer: O God, who founded the salvation of the human race on the Incarnation of your Word, give your peoples the mercy they implore, so that all may know there is no other name to be invoked but the Name of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Saint Alphonsus Liguori once wrote: "God hath given Him a Name which is above all names. And He commands that this name should be adored by the Angels, by men, and by devils: That in the Name of Jesus every knee should bow of those that are in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth. If, then, all creatures are to adore this great name, still more ought we sinners to adore it, since it was in our behalf that this name of Jesus; which signifies Savior, was given to Him; and for this end also He came down from Heaven, namely, to save sinners: 'For us men and for our salvation He came down from

Heaven, and was made Man.' We ought to adore Him, and at the same time to thank God Who has given Him this name for our good; it is this name that consoles us, defends us, and makes us burn with love."

Thursday, January 4 ~ Season of Christmas **Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

Holy Gospel: John 1:35-42 John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the *Messiah*," which is translated *Christ*. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called *Cephas*," which is translated *Peter*.

Meditation: Jesus invites each of us to "come and see" for ourselves that his word is true, life-giving and everlasting. "Come and see" is God's invitation for fellowship and communion with the One who made us in love for love. Saint Augustine tells us something very important about God and how he relates to us: "If you hadn't been called by God, what could you have done to turn back? Didn't the very One who called you when you were opposed to Him make it possible for you to turn back?" It is God who initiates and who draws us to himself. Without his grace, mercy, and help we could not find him.

Prayer: O God, who crowned with the gift of true faith Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's burning zeal to find you, grant by her intercession and example that we may always seek you with diligent love and find you in daily service with sincere faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: When two of John's disciples began to seek out Jesus, Jesus took the initiative to invite them into his company. He did not wait for them to get his attention. Instead he met them halfway. He asked them one of the most fundamental questions of life: "What are you looking for?" In other words, what were they looking for in Jesus, and what were they aiming to get out of life? Jesus asks each of us this very same question: "What's the goal of your life? What are you aiming for and trying to get out of life?" So, what is your response? Think about it, pray about it, then take up Jesus' invitation.

Friday, January 5 ~ Season of Christmas **Saint John Neumann, Bishop**

Holy Gospel: John 1:43-51 Jesus decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Meditation: The fig tree was a symbol of God's blessing and peace. It provided shade from the midday sun and a cool place to retreat and pray. It is very likely that Nathaniel had meditated "under the fig tree" on the Messianic prophecies and prayed for their fulfillment in his time. Perhaps he dozed off for a midday nap and dreamed of God's kingdom like Jacob did when he saw a vision of the ladder which united earth with heaven (ref. Genesis 28:12-17). Nathaniel accepted Jesus as Messiah and Lord because Jesus spoke to the need of his innermost being – the desire to know God personally and to be united with him in his glory. Jesus' response to Nathaniel's new faith is the promise that he himself will be the "ladder which unites earth with heaven". God had opened a door for Jacob that brought him and his people into a new relationship with the living God. In Jacob's dream God revealed his angelic host and showed him the throne of heaven and promised Jacob that he and descendants would dwell with the living God.

Prayer: O God, who called the Bishop Saint John Neumann, renowned for his charity and pastoral service, to shepherd your people in America, grant by his intercession that, as we foster the Christian education of youth and are strengthened by the witness of brotherly love, we may constantly increase the family of

your Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Nathaniel was very skeptical. He didn't like Nazareth (noted by his cynical quip) and didn't want to have anything to do with people who came from such a place. How could the Messiah come from a town at the crossroads with gentiles and people of other religions? Perhaps we are like Nathaniel at times. We reject others out of rivalry or prejudice, or we keep them at a distance because we find fault with something about them – the schools they went to, the street they live on or neighborhood they grew up in, the kind of car they drive, or on a more global scale their manner of speech, the way they dress, their customs, or whatever we dislike about them and "their kind." Rather than argue with his friend, Philip took the wiser strategy of inviting Nathaniel to "come and see" for himself who this Jesus claimed to be. Clever arguments rarely win people to the gospel, but a genuine encounter with the person of Jesus Christ can transform one's life forever. Remember the words of Saint Augustine: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You."

Saturday, January 6 ~ Season of Christmas

Saint André Bessette, Religious

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:23-38 When Jesus began his ministry he was about thirty years of age. He was the son, as was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Meditation: Luke states that Jesus was thirty years old when he began his public ministry. Why did Jesus spend thirty years in obscurity in the village of Nazareth when his purpose for coming to earth was to save us the world from destruction? This is significant for at least a couple of reasons. First, it shows that Jesus was responsible and faithful in the mundane duties of family life. Before he embraced public duties, he showed his fidelity and concern for domestic duties. Tradition has it that Joseph died when Jesus was young. Jesus assumed the responsibility for caring for his mother. Jesus taught his disciples the precept that "he who is faithful in little, will be faithful in much" by his personal example. If we want to be fit to carry on the Lord's mission today, we must learn faithfulness in great matters by first being faithful in little matters of home and workday life.

Prayer: Lord our God, friend of the lowly, who gave your servant, Saint André Bessette, a great devotion to Saint Joseph and a special commitment to the poor and afflicted, help us through his intercession to follow his example of prayer and love and so come to share with him in your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Genealogies are very important. They give us our roots, and help us to understand our heritage – where and whom we come from. Matthew's genealogy (Matthew 1:1-17) traces Jesus' lineage back to Abraham, the father of the chosen people. Luke's genealogy in today's gospel traces Jesus' lineage all the way back to Adam, father of the human race. In doing so Luke stresses the real humanity of Jesus. Jesus came not just to save the chosen people but all humankind as well. Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He is the hope not only for the people of the Old Covenant but for all nations as well. He is the Savior of the world. In him we receive adoption as sons and daughters of the living God.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

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The Holy Family

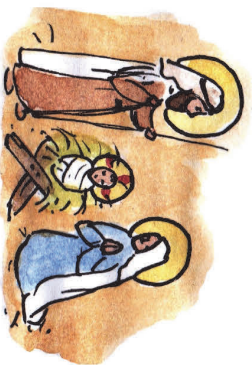

When we talk about the Holy Family we are talking about Jesus and his mother Mary and his foster-father, Saint Joseph. Mary became the mother of Jesus when she was betrothed (formally engaged) to St. Joseph, and Jesus' real father was God the Father Himself. So Saint Joseph acted as the Father of Jesus on earth.



Saint Joseph was a carpenter and worked hard to provide for his family. Mary loved Jesus and Joseph and cooked and cleaned for them. When Jesus was old enough Saint Joseph trained Him to be a carpenter as well. Because they all loved each other with generosity and selflessness they were the happiest and holiest family that ever lived.



We can imitate the Holy Family by loving our parents and siblings and putting others before ourselves. What can you do today to make your family happier and holier?



**Answer to puzzle on front: the Mother of God.
Answers to Word Find: Love each other!**

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

December 31st, 2023: Feast of the Holy Family
January 1st, 2024: Feast of Mary the Mother of God



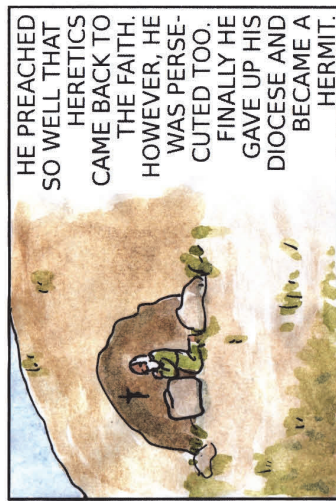
Mary,

*Under what title do we honour Our Lady on January 1st?
Use the code to find out!*

D E F G H M O R T

Saint Gregory Nazianzen

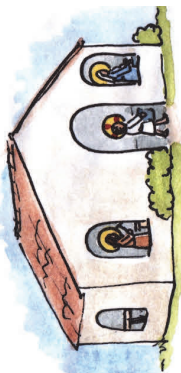
January 2



SAINT GREGORY LIVED A LIFE OF SACRIFICE AND PENANCE, AND THOUGHT NOTHING OF ALL WORLDLY RICHES AND PLEASURES. HE WROTE AND TAUGHT ABOUT THE FAITH SO ELOQUENTLY THAT MANY WERE BROUGHT BACK TO THE FAITH. BECAUSE OF ALL HE DID TO TEACH THE FAITH HE IS CALLED A DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH.

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Holy Family Word-Find



See if you can find all these words about the Holy Family in the puzzle!

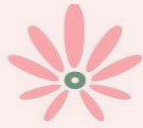
Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end!

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O M H V J E F A T I O N A R
C O O P E R A T I O N S H R
H I Y C S L E I S H E L P
L E O O S A L R A P O E
D R T M A R Y H R H V N
H O M E H N J A E E C E
F A I T H R O P P O O R E
P E R F E C T Y C A R E

| | | |
|-------------|--------|----------|
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| CARPENTER | HAPPY | MOTHER |
| CHILD | HELP | MARY |
| COOPERATION | HOLY | PEACE |
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- Doubting whether God really loves you
- Wondering how to improve your relationship with God and others

Sign up in the Gathering Space December 30/31 or January 6/7. The book/study guide cost is \$23.00. The registration deadline to be included in the bulk order for books is Monday, January 8.



MARCH FOR LIFE – WASHINGTON, D.C., JANUARY 18-19, 2024!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND MAKE PLANS!!

2023 was a Roller Coaster ride in our battle against abortion. More than ever, we need to band together for support as we face an uncertain future. St. Edward's Knights of Columbus is again sponsoring a charter bus for the 2024 National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Departure late evening, Thursday, January 18, and return late evening, Friday, January 19. This is a busy but impactful day of adventure, mission and sacrifice to our Nation's Capital, witnessing our ongoing concerns with Abortion. Thanks to a generous grant from the Catholic Foundation, seats can be reserved for only \$40.00 each with family pricing and Scholarships available as needed. Contact Paul Gassman at 740-334-8898 or Dcn. John Barbour at 740-973-5583 to reserve a spot or for more information.

Santa's Attic Collection Days



Saturday, January 13th,

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 14th,

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Santa is down for his long winter's nap, but his elves will be busy collecting your lightly-used Christmas items and décor. This being a three-day weekend, drop off your

donations on Friday afternoon before you head out of town. Santa can use some help.

Come and get a sneak peek of all the beautiful Christmas items while packing them to be stored away in the attic until 2024 Santa's Attic.

Confirmation students and high school students – this is a perfect way to earn those service hours!

We can also use packing materials like tissue paper, newspaper and bubble wrap to package the breakables.

Come when you can. Stay as long as you can.

Any help is deeply appreciated by Santa's Attic Co-Chairs Selma, Kathi and Lisa.

A Night Under the Stars



January 20

Dance and Silent Auction!

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National Eucharistic Revival



The National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative called for by the Bishops of the United States, is preparing for Year Two – the Year of Parish Revival (June 2023-June 2024).

The Eucharistic Revival is a historic and transformative national movement to help the faithful fall in love with Jesus, especially in the Eucharist, and be inspired and equipped to share that love with others.

(For a helpful infographic providing an overview of the three-year process and other information, go to www.eucharisticrevival.org.)

St. Edward is hosting parish-wide small groups discussing the Eucharistic Revival study titled *“Becoming Eucharistic People.”*

NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 16 AT 6:30 P.M.

Potluck Dinner and Group Discussions.

Come join and offer your suggestions for our church!

THE YEAR OF EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

To assist in the formation and catechesis of our Eucharistic Culture, questions will be provided by Dcn. John. Full answers are in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

EUCHARISTIC QUESTION FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 31:

Q: What is the anamnesis part of the Eucharistic prayer? This part of the prayer calls to mind the Passion, Resurrection and glorious return of Christ Jesus... Read paragraph 1354 of the Catechism.

St. Pio of Pietrelcina:

“A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.”

Reflection on Lectionary Readings



DECEMBER 31, 2023

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

[SIR 3:2-6, 12-14](#); [PS 128:1-2, 3, 4-5](#); [COL 3:12-21](#); [LK 2:22-40](#)

Today, we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Just as the Holy Family is holy, we are also called to be holy. This holiness is achievable by living as disciples of Christ.

St. Paul calls us to put on “heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience... as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.” Let us “give thanks to God the Father” by being good stewards of His love and mercy to all our family members.

Today’s Gospel says a lot about trust and surrender to our Lord. When Simeon and Anna prophesized about what was to come, Jesus’ parents were “amazed at what was said about him.” We can imagine that two parents would be taken back by these words! Yet, the Holy Family surrendered their lives to God and had unwavering faith and trust in His plan.

God’s plan will fulfill our hearts more than we could have ever imagined. Like the Holy Family, we just need to trust, surrender and be attentive to God’s voice.

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